General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/63/L.54)]

63/116. Sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The General Assembly

Adopts the following Declaration:

Declaration on the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

We, the States Members of the United Nations, celebrate today the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations in the field of human rights. Since its adoption, it has inspired the world and empowered women and men around the globe to assert their inherent dignity and rights without discrimination on any grounds. It is and will remain a source of progressive development of all human rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights calls upon us to recognize and respect the dignity, freedom and equality of all human beings. We applaud the efforts undertaken by States to promote and protect all human rights for all. We must strive to enhance international cooperation and the dialogue among peoples and nations on the basis of mutual respect and understanding towards this goal.

In an ever-changing world, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights remains a relevant ethical compass that guides us in addressing the challenges we face today. The living, driving force of all human rights unites us in our common goal to eradicate the manifold ills that plague our world. We remain committed to development and to the internationally agreed development goals, and are convinced that their fulfillment will be instrumental to the enjoyment of human rights.

We deplore that human rights and fundamental freedoms are not yet fully and universally respected in all parts of the world. In no country or territory can it be claimed that all human rights have been fully realized at all times for all. Human beings continue to suffer from the neglect and violation of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. We laud the courage and commitment of all women and men around the world who have devoted their lives to promoting and protecting human rights.

We all have the duty to step up our efforts to promote and protect all human rights and to prevent, stop and redress all human rights violations. We must give everybody a chance to learn about and better understand all human rights and fundamental freedoms. We must continue to strengthen the human rights pillar of the United Nations, as we undertook with the creation of the Human Rights Council.

Today, we, the States Members of the United Nations, reiterate that we will not shy away from the magnitude of this challenge. We reaffirm our commitment towards the full realization of all human rights for all, which are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

65th plenary meeting
10 December 2008